



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services
Risk Management Agency

March 13, 2001

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: R&D-01-014

TO: Hawaii Tropical Fruits and Trees Producer Groups
All Risk Management Agency Field Offices
All Reinsured Companies

FROM: Tim B. Witt /s/ Tim B. Witt
Deputy Administrator

SUBJECT: Request for Input from Hawaii Tropical Fruit and Tree Producers

BACKGROUND:

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) intends to obtain input from producers and producer groups before entering into contracts for research and development to increase participation in areas or for crops that may be underserved by the Federal crop insurance program. RMA believes this input is critical in determining the need and direction of research and potential development.

ACTION:

RMA requests input from groups or individuals representing tropical fruit and tree producers in Hawaii so that their needs, concerns, and other input may be considered before it enters into a contract for the research and possible development of risk management strategies for tropical fruits and trees. Crops defined under tropical fruits and trees for this initiative include Bananas, Coffee, Guavas, Papaya, Pineapples, Mango, Lychee, Rambutan, and Atemoya (Moya). Of particular interest is any input that would help RMA determine producers' interest in such a risk management strategy, as well as specific suggestions and concerns regarding the structure, scope, and limitations that such a program should have.

Please provide your input to Lana Cusick by April 20, 2001, to assure its consideration. Ms. Cusick may be reached by telephone at (816) 926-3477, by fax at (816) 926-7343, by e-mail at "Lana_Cusick@rm.fcic.usda.gov," or at the following postal address:



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The Risk Management Agency Administers and Oversees
All Programs Authorized Under the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Attention: Lana Cusick
Research and Evaluation Division
Risk Management Agency
P. O. Box 419293, Stop 0813
Kansas City, Missouri 64141-6293

Anyone who is aware of other persons or organizations representing tropical fruit and tree producers is encouraged to provide a copy of this Informational Memorandum to them and/or to advise Ms. Cusick how to contact them. Listed below are organizations that are being provided this Memorandum because they were previously identified as possible contacts interested in providing input.

Scott Greer
Pueo Orchards

Emerson Llantero
Papaya Administrative Committee

Richard & Jenny Johnson
Onomea Orchards

Dick Petersen
Hawaii Coffee Association

Wayne Katayama
Kilauea Agronomics

Ellen Mehos
Hawaii State Guava Association
Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers
Tropical Fruit Growers Association

Wesley Nohara
Maui Pine

George Fike
Kona Coffee Council

Delan Perry
Kapoho Grown

Jerry Vriesenga
Pineapple Growers Association of Hawaii

Ken Kamiya
BYUH-Agriculture

Loren Mochida
Tropical Hawaiian Products

DISPOSAL DATE:

This Informational Memorandum is effective until the disposal date, May 31, 2001.